

Before joining my team, Ruth had already established a life of meaningful service. Her work at the World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP) reflected a lifelong commitment to the belief that families, in all forms, matter. That belief would carry through every piece of work she did from the day she answered the call to join my team as a case-worker.

What was supposed to be a temporary, part-time role turned into seventeen years of relentless dedication. Over those years, Ruth became a cornerstone of the office. Her reputation extended far beyond our district. People from around the country reached out—not to the office, but to Ruth—because they knew she would get the job done.

Whether it was an immigration case, an adoption, a visa crisis, or helping someone reunite with family, Ruth took every issue personally. She fought for constituents as if they were her own loved ones—and in many ways, they were. She fiercely advocated for individuals and families caught in the immigration system, helped countless people through difficult legal mazes, and never let up.

And while her professional accomplishments are remarkable, those of us lucky enough to know her personally know that Ruth also had a softer, deeply generous side. She was a talented quilter who would quietly craft beautiful gifts for staff members welcoming new children. She loved her family deeply. Her commitment to immigration work was a natural extension of her devotion to them. And, of course, we'd be remiss not to mention her favorite drink: a strong gin and tonic, a detail that feels just as Ruth as anything else.

Ruth made me and our team better. She made this country better. Her impact isn't measured just in policies or case numbers, but in the lives she touched. Through her work, families were reunited, futures were restored, and faith was renewed in the idea that government can, in fact, work for the people.

So today, we remember Ruth not just as a colleague, but as a mentor, a fighter, and a friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ruth Clapp for her distinguished career and life of service. Her legacy lives on in the work we continue to do, and in every person whose life she changed for the better.

RECOGNIZING JAVIER RANGEL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Javier Rangel for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Javier has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Javier, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Javier's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Javier Rangel on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF NATHAN L. HAMMOND

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Nathan L. Hammond for his recent promotion and recognize his distinguished service to our nation in the United States Air Force.

Capt. Hammond began his military career in January 2014 when he enlisted in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. In 2018, he graduated from the University of Oklahoma and earned his commission through their ROTC program. As an officer, Capt. Hammond initially served as a Gold Bar Recruiter before being selected as the Assistant Flight Commander for Air Freight at the 436th Aerial Port Squadron at Dover Air Force Base. In this role, he led 226 military and civilian personnel to ensure efficient flight operations at the Department of Defense's largest aerial port.

For his outstanding service, Capt. Hammond received the Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air and Space Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal. He was also named the 2025 Company Grade Officer of the Year by AFSOUTH and earned the prestigious John Levitow Award in Airman Leadership School for his exceptional academic performance, among many other accolades.

In July 2022, Capt. Hammond earned the rank of captain and began serving as the Special Warfare Mission Support Flight Commander for the 720th Operations Support Squadron in Hurlburt Field, Florida. Since October 2024, he has been the Logistics Flight Commander of the 612th Air Base Squadron out of Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. I'm pleased to honor Capt. Hammond for his continued excellence in proudly serving our country.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Capt. Hammond's extensive contributions to our nation. Congratulations to Capt. Hammond, and I wish him the very best.

RECOGNIZING THE SLCC CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Salt Lake Community College Cross Country Program—a testament to the determination, resilience, and spirit of Utah's student-athletes.

In Richmond, Virginia, at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Cross Country Championships, the SLCC Bruins made history by sweeping both the men's and women's races, capturing national titles on both sides. This remarkable accomplishment speaks to the extraordinary talent and dedication of the student-athletes and coaching staff.

The women's team claimed its second consecutive national championship, dominating

the field and finishing 46 points ahead of their closest competitors. Their impressive victory continued just two days later, as they claimed first place in the NJCAA Half Marathon National Championship, a historic feat for SLCC and a significant milestone in women's athletics at the college.

On the men's side, the Bruins secured second place in the NJCAA Half Marathon National Championship, demonstrating their competitive edge and depth of talent.

These achievements would not have been possible without the leadership of Head Coach Isaac Wood, who was named NJCAA National Coach of the Year, along with Assistant Coaches Kelsey Gilbert, Aiden Carlson, and Tom Gruenewald. Athletic Director Kevin Dustin has also been instrumental in fostering a culture of excellence at SLCC.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee and a former athlete myself, I know firsthand the importance of athletic programs in shaping character and building future leaders. The success of the Salt Lake Community College Cross Country Program is not just a win for Utah, but an inspiration for aspiring athletes everywhere.

I applaud the SLCC Cross Country Program for their extraordinary accomplishments, and I look forward to seeing their continued success in the years to come. Their hard work, resilience, and sportsmanship embody the best of what it means to be a Bruin.

HONORING CHEF TIM LOVE ON HIS RESTAURANT'S LONESOME DOVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tim Love on the 25th anniversary of his restaurant, Lonesome Dove, a cornerstone of Fort Worth's culinary scene. Since opening its doors in 2000, Lonesome Dove has not only become an anchor of the Fort Worth Stockyards but has also set the stage for Mr. Love's expansion into a thriving restaurant empire. Today, he owns and operates 14 acclaimed restaurants across Texas and Tennessee, each enriching the cities they serve with unique flavors and a vibrant atmosphere.

Beyond his influence on the culinary world, Mr. Love has played a key role in shaping Texas' entertainment industry. His involvement in major music festivals such as Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits has further solidified his reputation as a bold entrepreneur. In Fort Worth, he helped launch the Fort Worth Music Festival and Conference at the Stockyards, an event that advances the city's music scene and cultural landscape.

From Lonesome Dove to Gemelle, Woodshed Smokehouse, and Tannahill's Tavern and Music Hall, Mr. Love's restaurants have become landmarks of Fort Worth's culinary excellence. Through his commitment to bold flavors and innovative dining experiences, he has helped establish Fort Worth as a premier destination for both residents and visitors.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize Mr. Tim

Love for his extraordinary contributions to our city and state. His relentless work ethic, passion for the culinary arts, and dedication to Fort Worth's growth have left a lasting impact. I congratulate him on this milestone anniversary and look forward to the continued success of his restaurants for years to come.

RECOGNIZING JARETSSY
SANDOVAL-PEREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jaretssy Sandoval-Perez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jaretssy has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jaretssy, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jaretssy's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jaretssy Sandoval-Perez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING SERGEANT JESS
GOMEZ, JR.

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Jess Gomez, Jr., and his commitment to our nation throughout his three years of military service and twelve years of service in the U.S. Army National Guard (USANG). During his service with the USANG, he achieved the rank of Sergeant with Service Battery 2/144 Field Artillery.

In 1965, on Christmas Day, Sergeant Gomez was deployed to Vietnam, and in July of 1968, he was honorably discharged. Sergeant Gomez further answered the call to service with the USANG, demonstrating his dedication to protecting and serving his community. His unit was located at the U.S. Army in Arcadia, California, where he participated in monthly weekend drills and annual Summer Camp for two and a half weeks. He was loved by many in his personal and professional life, including his section of Ammo buddies, with whom he kept in touch throughout his life.

As a result of his service, Sergeant Gomez was praised by local leaders for his dedication to protecting the safety of his local and greater community, regardless of the need. He was an Army truck driver for firefighters during the Northern California Red Bluff fires. In 1992, during the Rodney King riots, he was called out to protect cities in the Los Angeles area. The community was known to express genuine respect and heartfelt gratitude toward him

and his team for the protection they provided as members of the National Guard.

Following Sergeant Gomez's military and USANG service, he became a loyal member of Vietnam Veterans of America's (VVA) Chapter 47 and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 12034.

Not only did he spread awareness for the VVA by serving as a board member and by joining his chapter in local parades, but he also volunteered for the VVA Food Pantry. Mr. Gomez's work with the VVA Food Pantry was critical to ensuring more than 500 veterans received essential food products each week throughout the Greater Los Angeles region.

VFW Post 12034 remembers Sergeant Gomez fondly for his mentorship of younger and incoming veterans, praising him for embodying the phrase "still serving." He regularly attended community events to increase membership and engagement, and could be found annually at Rancho Remembers, ensuring high schoolers could understand the experiences of veterans.

During a challenging time when our city faced funding cuts that led to the potential closure of Pomona's beloved library, Sergeant Gomez showed up for his community—organizing and protecting a space that serves as a cornerstone for learning and dedication. His tireless efforts not only safeguarded the Pomona library but also inspired a renewed sense of unity and purpose.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Sergeant Jess Gomez, Jr. His civic service and commitment to both California and our Nation are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING JIM BRANDENBURG

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an iconic figure in the world of wildlife photography, Jim Brandenburg. Jim passed away at home in Minnesota on April 4, 2025, at the age of 79. He is survived by his spouse, Judy, daughter Heidi and her husband Nels Pierson, and grandchildren Olivia, Liam, and Lindsey.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Brandenburg's career began in the early 1970s, and he quickly gained recognition for his ability to humanize animals through images. His work as a staff photographer for National Geographic further solidified his reputation in the field of wildlife photography. He was named Wildlife Photographer of the Year in 1988, and Magazine Photographer of the Year by the National Press Photographers Association in 1981 and 1983. Of the 40 most important nature photographs of all time, chosen by the International League of Conservation Photographers, four are by Jim Brandenburg. In 2023, Jim became one of just six photographers to earn the National Geographic Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jim's ability to artfully capture the unique and beautiful landscapes and wildlife of Minnesota is perhaps his clearest legacy. By choosing to focus his lens on the animals of the Upper Midwest, he highlighted the exceptional ecosystems and biodiversity of our re-

gion, including wolves. In fact, two of his most renowned photographs are of wolves: one capturing a white wolf leaping between ice floes in the Arctic, the other a gray wolf staring directly into his lens, watching Jim from behind a tree in his own backyard in northern Minnesota. Jim's work conveys his deep respect and empathy for the animals he photographs, which helped him to capture moments that transcend mere documentation. His photographs invite viewers to pause and consider the lives of the creatures that share our planet.

In addition to his photographic contributions, Jim Brandenburg has been a tireless advocate for conservation. His work has been instrumental in raising awareness about the environmental challenges facing the Upper Midwest and advocating for the preservation of wilderness areas including Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Jim also worked with another famous adventurer-advocate from Minnesota, the explorer Will Steger, helping to document Will's polar expeditions. The United Nations Environmental Programme awarded Jim the World Achievement Award in recognition of his work to raise public awareness of the need to protect our planet's natural habitats.

Jim Brandenburg's legacy extends far beyond his photographic achievements. He has inspired photographers, conservationists, and nature lovers with his unique ability for capturing the soul of the wild. Through his work, he has shown us that nature is something to be cherished and protected. As we reflect on his life and career, we must honor not only his photographic contributions but also his commitment to the preservation of the natural world for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and work of Jim Brandenburg.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
POLICE CHIEF ROWDY KAGARISE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Williamsburg Police Chief Rowdy Kagarise, who is retiring on April 30, 2025, after a distinguished 23-year career with the Williamsburg Police Department.

Chief Kagarise holds distinctions as the longest-serving Chief of Police in Williamsburg and the first ever to retire from the department. His primary goal has always been to help ensure that Williamsburg remains a safe community to live in.

Admired for a common-sense approach and communication skills that many times defused tense situations during police interventions, Chief Kagarise began his career with the department as a part-time police officer in 2001. A Williamsburg native, he was appointed officer-in-charge in 2010 and chief of police in 2011.

In describing his philosophy on police work in Williamsburg, Chief Kagarise commented that, "It all comes down to caring about this community."

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Police Chief Rowdy Kagarise on his retirement